

#BXNFMXY
#00002915#
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE
TN 37203-3620

CARRIER ROUTE
005-DTM
5-19

39

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 19, 1997

VOL. 121

No. 20

THE BAPTIST

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miss. Baptists work in French partnership

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

More than 100 people claimed Jesus Christ as their personal Savior during an 11-day partnership evangelism campaign conducted across France by some 175 Southern Baptist volunteers from 18 U.S. states.

Several of the volunteers were Mississippi Baptists.

"I saw the Lord answer prayers. I saw God has plans that are made before I make plans," reported Jean Lambert of Greenville. She served with a Baptist church in the Bordeaux area of southwestern France.

"I have worked in women's missionary work and now I have seen it in action and the necessity of sharing the Holy Spirit and fellowship with fellow Christians and in sowing a seed that God will grow and ripen unto a great harvest," she said.

Retired after 34 years of service with Greenville public schools, Lambert is a member of First Church, Greenville, where she teaches Sunday School.

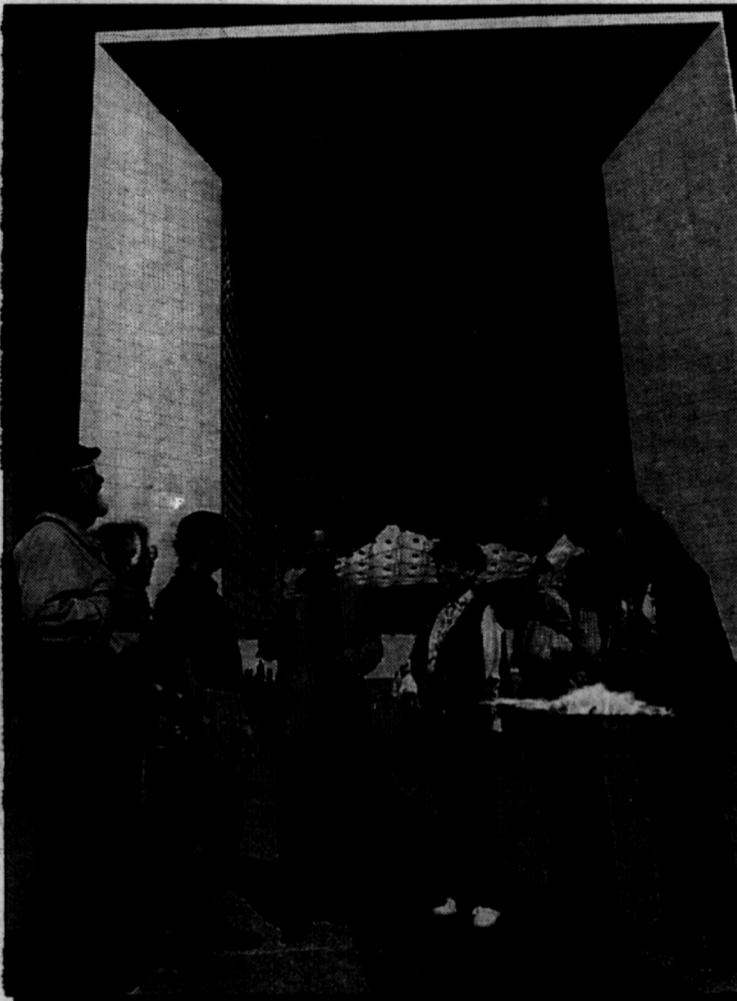
L. Darwin Brooks of Belden served with a Baptist church in Toulouse, another major city in southwestern France. Brooks got a clear understanding that the country of France is a vast mission field.

"The majority of the French people don't understand that they need the Lord as he is not worshipped at all. I feel that there is an enormous harvest of souls in France," he said.

Brooks is on the staff of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Another Mississippi Baptist who took part in the France campaign was Bob Holifield of Hattiesburg. A retired foreign missionary to Italy, Holifield missed his 43rd wedding anniversary by making the trip.

During the closing victory dinner in Paris, the volunteers sang "Happy



FRENCH PARTNERS — Southern Baptist foreign missionary Dennis Barton (fourth from left) orients a group of Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas before the Grand Arche in the La Defense section of Paris. A number of Mississippi Baptists also participated in the evangelism project with French Baptists. (FMB photo by Mike Creswell)

Anniversary" to him and his wife Flora, who did not make the trip.

French Baptist leaders had high praise for the revival, increased missions awareness, and renewed enthusiasm for the Christian faith that they said the American volunteers brought to more

than 30 of their churches.

It was the seventh such partnership campaign in France led by Abilene residents W.H. "Dub" and Doris Jackson, crusade coordinators in Western Europe for the Foreign Mission Board.

The Jacksons' ministry is designed to create an extra missions "push" in Western Europe, where Southern Baptists support more than 200 foreign missionaries.

Veteran Southern Baptist foreign missionary Gene Phillips visited several groups and told the Southern Baptists they had been a great example to French Baptists of what volunteers can do in terms of ministry.

"This has been a tremendous success in many, many ways," he assured the volunteers during the closing dinner. Phillips administers Southern Baptist work in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Long-time French Baptist leader Andre Thobois reminded the volunteers that French Baptists suffered greatly under extreme persecution in France in past centuries.

He urged the Americans to continue praying steadfastly for the evangelization of France.

"Pray for an explosion of the light of the Lord in this old country!" he pleaded.

French Baptist pastor Henri Frantz emphasized the results such campaigns can have by introducing Dany Turquais, who was led to Christ during a similar partnership campaign in 1974. Today Turquais is an active lay leader of the Baptist church on Avenue du Maine in Paris, where Frantz also serves as pastor.

Dub Jackson urged Mississippi Baptists to begin praying for a similar partnership evangelism campaign across Germany June 17-30, 1998. For details or other information, contact Jackson in Abilene at (915) 677-2500; fax (915) 676-7222.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

140th SBC in session

3

MBIB hands out awards

4

State stats show increases

5

China persecution rises

6

Large gift kicks off campaign

An anonymous gift of \$1,000,000 has been given to the Glorieta and Ridgcrest national conference centers capital campaign, "Renewing the Place of Renewal." Announced May 30, the campaign seeks to raise as much as \$67 million to improve the facilities, enrich programming, and provide scholarships for the two Baptist conference centers.

"We have known all along that for this campaign to succeed, the Lord would have to get into the hearts of Southern Baptists to see what a valuable asset we have in our conference centers at Glorieta and Ridgcrest," said Jim Henry, chair of the campaign cabinet and pastor of First Church, Orlando.

"The anonymous gift of \$1 million gives us a tremendous lift in that direction at this stage of our efforts.

"We are praying that others of our fellowship will 'second the motion' and in a few months we can see a successful conclusion to this visionary and exciting venture of faith," added Henry, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Official campaign solicitation is slated to begin at the end of June.

Looking back

10 years ago

Jay Thomason and Will Patterson of Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, serve as pages during the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis. They join 13 other Royal Ambassadors and six Acteens as pages for the annual meeting.

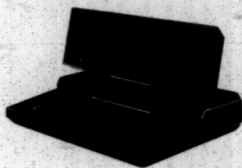
20 years ago

Yazoo City layman Owen Cooper, the last lay president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), presents a motion at the SBC annual meeting in Kansas City calling for the enlistment and funding of 5,000 mission volunteers by 1982. The resolution passes.

50 years ago

The Men's Bible Classes of First Baptist, along with the Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches in Grenada have an attendance contest for six Sundays. The winners, First Baptist, enjoy a chicken dinner prepared by the losers, who also provide entertainment.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Beverly Stank

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER
Debbie Sills

EDITORS EMERITI
Don McGregor
Guy Henderson

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Billie Buckley, Petal;
Vickie Ford, Olive Branch;
Larry Garner, Jackson;
Bill Hardin, Picayune;
Dan Howard, Woodville;
Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula;
Debbie Sills, secretary.

**Postmaster: Send changes of address
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800**

VOLUME 121 NUMBER 20
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39204. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date. Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

It's time to get on with God's business

As you read this, the 140th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will be preparing to adjourn after five days of official sessions and ancillary meetings around the Dallas area.

Dramatic expressions have been overused to the point of cheapness in our day, but it is not an exaggeration to describe as historic this year's gathering of the largest Protestant denomination in the world.

Taking center stage at the annual meeting is approval of the final details that will put the Covenant for a New Century into effect. The Covenant for a New Century entails the most massive restructuring ever of the SBC bureaucracy — and possibly any other bureaucracy.

Some SBC agencies will not survive, while others will be consolidated, and still others will become more powerful. Some denominational employees won't be affected, some will be given new responsibilities other than the work they have been doing, and some will not have jobs.

As this column has stressed in the past, change is good. The denominational structure that brought us to this point may not be as responsive and efficient in meeting the demands of the year 2000 as it was in meeting the demands of 1950.

The world and the peoples of the world are dynamic — always have been — and we must be attuned to constant change if we are to continue delivering the unchanging message of the Gospel to ends of the earth.

The denominational restructure is frightening to some people, but very few have expressed the Luddite fear that holds back progress and success.

We should not be afraid to air their con-

cerns, but after considerable prayer and two consecutive affirmative votes from convention messengers, it is time to move ahead with the plan.

However, there have been troubling aspects to this restructuring.

The committee appointed to design the Covenant for a New Century was composed entirely of highly-educated, white males.

Likewise, the appointed members of the Implementation Task Force (ITF), which were charged with bringing together under one umbrella the diverse responsibilities of the Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission, were not very representative of all the people we seek to reach in the new century.

While that fact does not reflect on the individual members of the committees — who, after all, took on a tough assignment and did what they were asked to do — it does provide ammunition to our detractors who contend we are not serious about our stated intentions to reach out to groups dissimilar to ourselves.

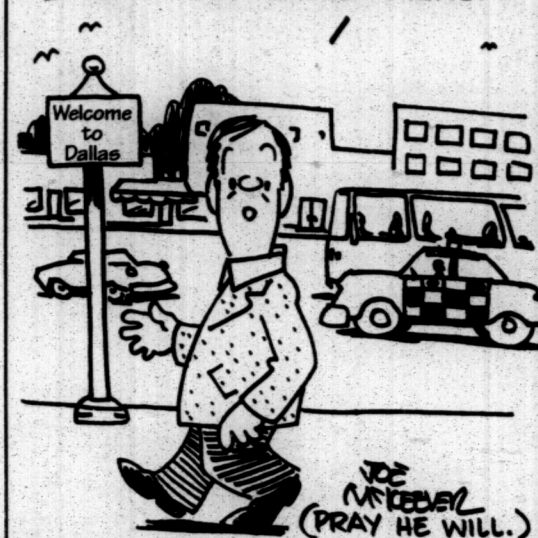
Frankly, our state conventions, associations, and local churches could do a much better job in that regard, too — including Mississippi Baptists.

Then there is the matter of the closed meetings. State Baptist newspaper editors on a number of occasions pleaded with ITF leadership to conduct their business in open sessions. The editors were told that the proceedings of the committee were so sensitive that the meetings could not be open to reportage.

Of course, that's the long-standing argument of government agencies who have preferred to avoid public scrutiny over the years.

No state Baptist newspaper wanted to

"HEY — THERE'S A CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN TOWN. MAYBE I CAN GET SAVED THERE."



report specific details of employees' personnel files, but a little sunshine on routine matters of reorganization as discussed by ITF would have been of great benefit — say, when hiring a consulting firm that turned out to be connected to gambling interests.

The planning is over and the restructuring will be complete in a few short weeks. It's time to get on with God's business.

God has used Southern Baptists in a mighty way for well over a century, and it should be our prayer that we will continue to be his vessels for the salvation of a lost world into the next century, the next millennium, and beyond until our Savior returns.

That's the purpose for which he has set us apart.

GUEST OPINION:



Learning from the lessons of the past

By Glenn Robins, member
First Church, Hattiesburg

segregation and have called for racial reconciliation.

The change in attitude among Mississippi Baptists has historical precedent.

One notable example was Joe T. Odle, editor of "The Baptist Record" in the 1960's.

According to Newman, Odle originally "preferred to ignore racial issues when he could and to smooth over difficulties when he could not," but the racially-motivated violence that surrounded the desegregation of the University of Mississippi; the assassination of Medger Evers; and the rash of church burnings in 1964 convinced Odle to become more outspoken.

In fact, Odle in an editorial, entitled "Christians in the Crisis Hour," scolded Mississippi Baptist preachers and leaders for not taking a "strong enough stand against (racial) hatred and bitterness."

Odle and others like Chester Quarles, William P. Davis, Chester A. Molpus, and Roy Collum took courageous stands

against racial injustice — positions still worthy of emulation.

Newman concluded that during the desegregation fight "the best that can be said of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is that it did not support Massive Resistance to desegregation and, at least in this respect, it cannot be said to have simply followed popular sentiment."

Today, Mississippi Baptists should strive for a greater legacy.

Some will argue that the "race problem" has been overstated or exaggerated.

Unfortunately this has not been the case. Of the six "letters to the editor" written in response to Jones' February 6 piece, 50% expressed support for some form of segregation.

There is much work to be done.

In his original article, Jones challenged Mississippi Baptists to "move from rhetoric to concrete action in our homes, schools, businesses, and — surely — in our churches."

Indeed action is important,

but so is dialogue. We must work to change the minds and hearts of all people.

Matt. 15:19 says, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts..." and evil thoughts provide the foundation for sinful action.

The lessons of the past have taught us that the difficult issue of race in Mississippi has required that people take "extra-ordinary" stances.

Pastors and denominational leaders must be willing to denounce publicly the evils of racism and work for racial reconciliation.

However, the laity, if it wants to live in a colorblind society, must assume the majority of the responsibility for ending racism.

Perhaps the best barometer for judging the state of race relations was offered by President John F. Kennedy.

During the tumultuous days of June 1963, Kennedy simply asked, "Then who among us would be content to have the color of his skin changed and stand his place?"

"When we can say unequivocally that 'there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus,' then we will know our task has been completed and we will have learned from the lessons of the past."

Robins is an adjunct faculty member at William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

NIV controversy results in suggested guidelines

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — Key parties in a recent controversy over Bible translation of gender-related language have voiced common ground in a joint statement and a page of suggested translation guidelines.

"Specifically, we agree that it is inappropriate to use gender-neutral language when it diminishes accuracy in the translation of the Bible," the statement, released June 4, noted, "and we therefore agree to the attached guidelines for translation of gender-related language in Scripture."

Additionally: "We agree that Bible translations should not be influenced by illegitimate intrusions of secular culture or by political or ideological agendas."

The statement resulted from a May 27 meeting convened by James Dobson, president of the evangelical ministry Focus on the Family, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Signers of the statement include representatives of four organizations embroiled in recent controversy over the New International Version

(NIV) Bible translation — a controversy so intense among evangelicals that it prompted a halt in plans for a gender-neutral NIV revision.

Among the statement's 12 signers:

◆ Joel Belz, publisher of "World," an evangelical magazine which brought attention to the NIV revision in a series of stories beginning in its March 29 issue.

◆ Bruce E. Ryskamp, president and CEO, Zondervan Publishing House, the NIV's U.S. publisher.

◆ Lars Dunberg, president of the International Bible Society, the NIV's copyright holder.

◆ Ken Baker, secretary of the Committee on Bible Translation, a 15-member group of scholars with authority over the NIV translation.

In addition to voicing a Bible translation consensus, the statement from the Dobson-called meeting in Colorado Springs announced Zondervan and Focus on the Family would provide refunds to purchasers of "The Kid's Devotional Bible

(NirV)" published by Zondervan and "Adventures in Odyssey Bible" (the International Children's Bible translation of Word Publishing) published by Focus.

Among the group's suggested Bible translation guidelines:

◆ "'Father' ('pater,' 'ab' in the original text) should not be changed to 'parent,' or 'fathers' to 'parents,' or 'ancestors.'"

◆ "'Son' ('huios, ben') should not be changed to 'child,' or 'sons' ('huioi') to 'children' or 'sons and daughters.' (However, Hebrew 'banim' often means 'children.')

Theology-related objections among a number of U.S. evangelicals to gender-neutral translations often involve instances in which the words "he," "man," "brothers" and "mankind" typically are replaced by "people," "person," "brother and sister" and "humankind."

None of 12 signers of the Bible translation consensus was an official of the Southern Baptist Convention or any other denomination.

In addition to Dobson, Belz, Ryskamp, Dunberg, and Baker, other signers of the consensus

statement were Wayne Grudem, president of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood and professor of biblical and systematic Theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois; Timothy Bayly, executive director of the council and pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd, Bloomington, Ind.; John Piper, a member of the council and senior pastor of Bethlehem Church, Minneapolis; R.C. Sproul, chairman, Ligonier Ministries; Ron Youngblood, a member of the Committee on Bible Translation and professor of Old Testament, Bethel Theological Seminary West; Charles Jarvis, executive vice president of Focus on the Family; and Vern S. Poythress, professor of New Testament interpretation, Westminster Theological Seminary.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 19, 1997

VOL. 121

No. 20

HIGH ABOVE DALLAS — Southern Baptists from around the world are gathered at the Dallas Convention Center (foreground), site of the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 17-19.

Messengers gather for historic meeting

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

History is being made as Southern Baptists messengers gather in Dallas June 17-19 for the 140th session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to celebrate the launch of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and to bid farewell to the Home Mission Board, the Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission.

The convention will also hear reports concerning name changes for the Foreign Mission Board to the International Mission Board and the Christian Life Commission to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, and the closing of several other SBC entities such as the Historical, Stewardship, and Educational Commissions.

These actions come as a result of the Covenant for a New Century restructuring proposal passed by the SBC messengers in 1995 and 1996.

The meeting of America's largest evangelical body is being held at the Dallas Convention Center.

SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter anticipates about 15,000 messengers will register. The 1996 convention in New Orleans registered 13,706 messengers.

Other agenda items include:

◆ a proposed national Cooperative Program budget of \$148 million to fund the work of 4,200 foreign and 4,800 home missionaries, six seminaries and other SBC efforts.

◆ re-election of Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., to a traditional second one-year term as president.

◆ election of a first and second vice-president and other officers.

◆ a vote on whether to call for a Southern Baptist boycott of the Walt Disney Company.

The vote comes one year after messengers approved a resolution threatening to boycott Disney if the company refuses to

change its increasingly "anti-Christian and anti-family trend" in its corporate decisions.

Another possible action is a resolution related to the translation of gender in the Bible. In a recent controversy over a proposed "gender-accurate" version of the New International Version (NIV), several Southern Baptist leaders spoke out strongly against the new translation.

The International Bible Society, copyright holder of the NIV, announced May 14 that the plan has been put on hold.

Messengers may also be asked to speak by resolution to the announced organizational plans for NAMB.

Some NAMB trustee nominees have expressed concern that the salary scale is excessive and that the proposed organizational structure consolidates too much power in too few hands.

NAMB trustees will officially convene for the first time at the conclusion of the convention on June 19.

David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City and a trustee for the Brotherhood Commission, will be nominated as a NAMB trustee, along with Kendall Moore, a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Robert Reccord, currently pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va. and former chairman of the Implementation Task force — charged with carrying out the Covenant for a New Century restructuring plans — will be nominated as the first president of NAMB.

Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., and a former chair of the SBC Peace Committee, will be nominated as the first chairman of the trustees for NAMB.

Two Northwest Association ministers of music are representing Mississippi on this year's SBC program.

Blake Krumalis, minister of music at Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, will lead congregational singing at 4:10 p.m. on June 17.

Chris Alsup, minister of music at First Church, Horn Lake, will lead music at 6:15 p.m. on June 18.

There are no other Mississippians scheduled to speak or lead in any other session of the SBC.

In addition to the convention sessions, messengers can attend the Pastors' Conference, June 15-16; the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting, June 15-16; and various other related gatherings.

When 14,277 messengers register at the Dallas meeting, it will mean 1,000,000 messengers have attended SBC annual meetings since its beginning in 1845.

(BP and ABP releases were used in compiling this article.)



Miss. Baptists helping smile return to boy

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

A medical ministry involving a number of Mississippi Baptists is helping to return a smile to the face of a Honduran boy — in more ways than one.

Eleven-year-old Nelson Cruz, of El Porvenir, a three-hour bus ride north of Tegucigalpa, contracted a scalp infection when he was age three. It spread to his face and ultimately ate away part of his nose and ear, causing scarring on the rest of his face.

His farming parents, who have seven children, spent everything they had to save his life, eventually losing their home because of the costs.

After a year of hospitalization, Nelson was sent home for seven years of isolation, fearing public ridicule because of his disfigured face.

At some point in the recent past, a Honduran doctor began planning for plastic surgery which was never carried out — never, that is, until a Mississippi medical missions team met Nelson and his parents, who are members of the local Baptist church.

Last fall a team led by Mackie Davis of Hattiesburg, who is volunteer assistant stateside coordinator for Mississippi Partnerships, met Nelson.

James Stingley, a physician from Hazlehurst on the medical team, believed that the Chain of Love could help the boy.

Chain of Love is a Honduran

ministry which involves Mississippi Baptists in getting children to the U.S. for medical help when it is determined stateside medical help would be best.

Davis began working with Lilia de Larios, a Honduran dentist who heads up Chain of Love, to arrange for Nelson to come to Mississippi.

Stingley and Davis returned to El Porvenir this spring for more mission work — this time putting a new roof on the Baptist church there and beginning a discipleship program.

The team tracked down Nelson and de Larios arranged for a physician to look at him.

The doctor recommended surgery in the U.S. if possible, and a visa was obtained for Nelson and his mother.

Chain of Love and Mississippi Baptists purchased plane tickets for them, and Davis picked them up in New Orleans.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, through the office of medical director Eric McVey, agreed to admit him at no charge and plastic surgeon James "Bobo" Thompson, along with his surgical team, agreed to perform the surgery at no charge.

That was three weeks ago. Since then, mother and son stayed at the home of retired missionaries Jack and Jean Glaze of Madison until they could get into the Ronald McDonald House in Jackson, a free residence for families of children facing surgery.



A SON'S SMILE — Nelson Cruz, 11, and his mother, Esperanza Rodriguez, are in Mississippi for a series of procedures designed to return to Nelson his smile after an infection caused disfigurement. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Jean Glaze took the mother to a department store for reading glasses.

"You've never seen any woman happier for the joy of being able to read Scripture," said Jack Glaze.

Nurse Laverne Barnes of Jackson, who travels regularly to Honduras, arranged translators and drivers for Nelson and his mother.

Thompson saw Nelson several times, beginning work on an ear and making plans for working on his nose.

On June 11, Thompson attached a flap of skin called a tube pedicle from Nelson's neck to his nose.

The tube pedicle should remain in place for three weeks to begin to supply blood to the nose for regeneration of tissue.

After that, Thompson will cosmetically fashion a new nose for Nelson and do some work on the scar tissue on his lips.

It's the scar tissue that prevents Nelson from physically smiling, and it's the disfigurement that prevents him from emotionally smiling.

So, Nelson is speaking on two levels when he says to Mississippi Baptists, translated from Spanish by Jack Glaze, "I'm happy because I'm going to be able to smile again."

MBIB hands out state awards at April workshop

Mississippi Baptists involved in radio, television, and cable broadcasting came together for the Eleventh Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) Workshop April 18-19 at Calvary Church, Jackson.

Eleventh Mississippi Baptists In Broadcasting

The evening of April 18 kicked off the workshop with an awards banquet. Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, a non-profit organization committed to educating the entertainment industry and the general public of the media's impact, was the awards banquet speaker.

Baehr also serves as the publisher of Movieguide, a family magazine guide to entertainment based on biblical values.

His speech entitled, "Winning the Culture War," reaffirmed his goals to help redeem the values of the media while educating those attending on how to use discernment in selecting their entertainment.

Awards were presented at the banquet to several churches and organizations:

◆ Best Television Program — missions/evangelism: "Asking-Caraway St.," Friendship Church, Grenada.

◆ Best Television Program — church

musical: "1996 GLORIA! Night of Nights," Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

◆ Best Television Program — community service: "Mississippi College Academic Competition," Mississippi College Communications Dept., Clinton.

◆ Best Television Spot — "Eye on Meridian," Lauderdale Association, Meridian.

◆ Best Radio Program — missions/evangelism: "Circuit Rider/Glory Road Radio," Circuit Rider Records/Glory Road Records, Grenada.

◆ Best Radio Program — community service: "Welcome Home, Boys!," Spirit 106-WYJS, Jackson.

◆ Best Radio Spot: Spirit Sticker Promo Spirit 106-WYJS, Jackson.

◆ Best First Time Entry: "Open/Close Video for Sunday Morning Service," First Church, Biloxi.

◆ Creative Use of Television: "Youth Christian Videos (YCV)," ACTS of Greenville, First Church, Greenville.

The morning of April 19 featured workshops with outstanding conference leaders and equipment displayed by vendors.

For more information on MBIB, contact Farrell Blankenship, director of the Broadcast Services Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

The MBIB planning committee working with Blankenship includes Wayne Pierce, Hattiesburg; Merle Guyton, Tupelo; Bruce Cole, Bruce; and Steve Guidry, George Van Horn, Ken Sims, Richard Lister, and Judy Chen, all of Jackson.

Book Stores now on World Wide Web

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores now have their own site on the Internet's World Wide Web.

The site can be accessed at <http://www.baptistbookstore.com>, or through the Touching Lives section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Web site, located at <http://www.bssb.com>.

Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores are a 66-store national chain owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.



Steady rise marks Mississippi Baptist work

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB communication director

In 1996, Mississippi Baptists gathered in greater numbers than the previous year and gave more money to missions causes than ever before, according to a summary of church statistics released by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said, "Assuming that these figures are correct, it shows that our pastors and congregations are doing the right things that bring measurable results."

Causey added, "As we rejoice, we do not for one moment lose the vision that the fields are still 'white unto harvest,' and we press for even greater results in the years ahead under God's mandate."

Mississippi Baptists showed increases in the areas of baptisms, other additions, Sunday School enrollment, music ministry enrollment, and Cooperative Program receipts (see related graphic this page).

In addition, there were increases in membership, Discipleship Training enrollment, mission organization enrollment, total receipts, and total missions spending.

Linda Reeves, consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department, said, "We hope each Sunday School worker will have a renewed God-given vision for their calling and Sunday School work as we continue to see growth in Sunday School."

Reeves noted two 1997 special events relating to Sunday School: Teaching with Vision, and Design Your Sunday School.

Discipleship Training enrollment and participation was up 6,654 in 1996 to 131,639.

Marcus Pegler, director of the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, pointed to three reasons for

growth in Discipleship Training: "A renewed interest in being a disciple of Jesus, greater choices in materials, and a continued increase in the quality of the writing."

Graham Smith, director of the MBCB Church Music Department, said he was glad to see the numbers going up, but, "The most fulfilling aspect is knowing that more people than ever before in Mississippi are using their gifts in praise to our Lord and being trained to be total stewards for a lifetime."

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) enrollment rose 633 in 1996 to 53,830.

"Our increase in membership reflected interest in missions education and activities

among our people. I salute women in Mississippi who have 'stayed by the stuff' as they have learned about and participated in missions praying, giving, and going," said Marjean Patterson, executive director of Mississippi WMU.

Brotherhood enrollment rose to 49,875 in 1996, an increase of 1,810.

Paul Harrell, director of the MBCB Brotherhood Department, said he believed the increase reflects "a new commitment men are making to be involved in ministry."

Harrell added, "More are participating in prayer teams, witness teams, mission projects, accountability groups, and ministry support teams. Men are

reordering the priority of their lives because they have a strong desire to become godly men."

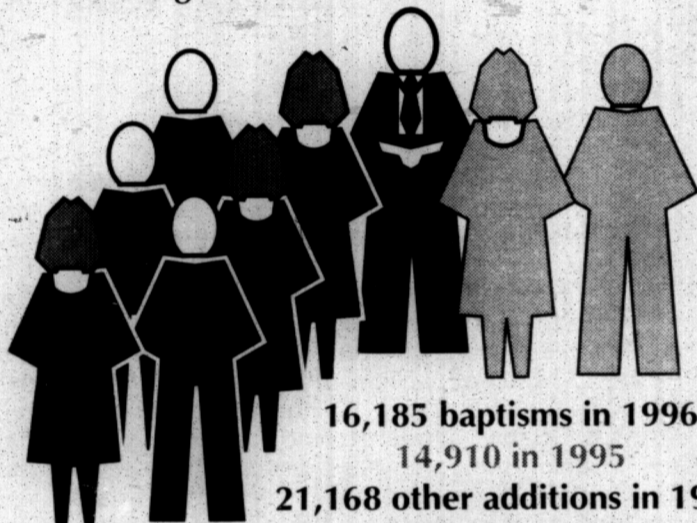
The 1996 total receipts of Mississippi Baptist churches was \$305,567,191 an increase of \$31,564,955. In addition, total mission spending rose to \$44,526,545, a 5.77% increase.

Said David Michel, director of the MBCB Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department, "The generosity of Mississippi Baptists continues to impress me. Other states use our per-capita giving records as a model for encouraging churches."

"I pray daily for continued faithfulness among our members as we help to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

Mississippi Baptists enjoy banner year

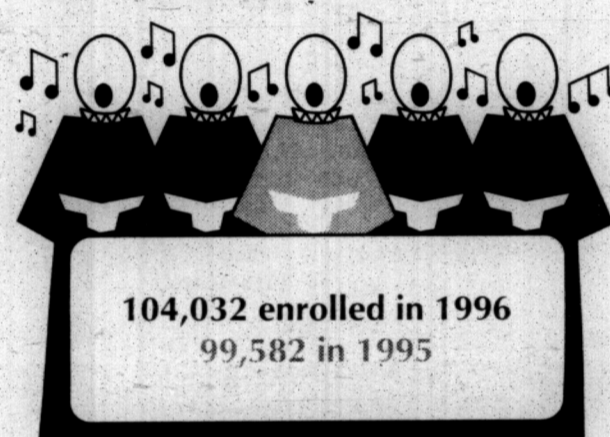
Coming down the aisle...



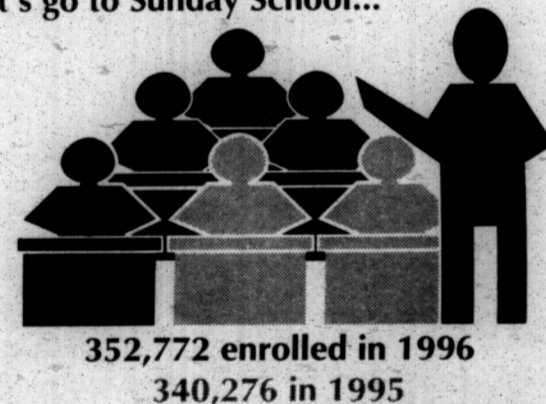
Our Cooperative Program giving...



Making beautiful music...



Let's go to Sunday School...



Source: Baptist Sunday School Board

HEY

EVERYONE!

Did you know...

Leadership Training is available for you?

Training is available for any teacher/worker in any organization from Bible Study to Missions

Church Growth weekends:

1. July 17-19
2. July 24-26
3. July 31-August 2

it offers something for everyone!

- ✕ training for all church leaders in one weekend
- ✕ youth Bible studies
- ✕ childcare

Time is running out...

Only 4 weeks left to register!!

Contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly to register
(601) 452-7261

Set Sail for the
Ultimate Singles Destination!

SINGLES LABOR DAY
BREAKAWAY

Complete Weekend
\$175 and up

August 29 - September 1, 1997
Sandestin Beach Resort • Destin, Florida

For a free brochure, call

1-800-LABOR-DAY



Special Guests
Point of Grace

...and Beyond
the Blue

Plus...special speakers,
worship and praise leaders,
morning breakout sessions
and much more!



Chinese repression up as trade status debated

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Chinese government has intensified its repression of the underground church, a human rights organization reported recently on the same day attempts began in Congress to remove favorable trade status for the communist giant because of such activities.



Despite the Chinese regime's efforts, both registered and unregistered churches are experiencing explosive growth, it was reported.

A fact-finding mission to China in late May reported the government not only is stepping up efforts to close churches it does not sanction but, in a new strategy, is aggressively pursuing and arresting house church leaders, according to Washington-based Freedom House's Puebla Program on Religious Freedom.

Ninety percent of the underground Protestant church members interviewed during the two-week trip said the repression is the worst since the early 1980s, the three-member team reported.

"Some provinces are more repressive than others, but repression has intensified in all the provinces from where we received reports," said Paul Marshall, an author and professor who led the team, in a written statement.

The Freedom House team interviewed 15 underground church members, including 12 who are pastors or leaders. It received reports from 17 of the 32 Chinese provinces.

Repression of underground churches began to increase after the Chinese government issued decrees in 1994 requiring the registration of religious groups. The persecution intensified last summer, Freedom House said in its June 3 report.

The underground church members reported new incidents of torture by beatings and by the use of cattle prods and electric drills, as well as other brutal treatment by Public Security Bureau police.

House-church members included these reports in interviews with the Freedom House team:

◆ The normal sentence for illegal church activities is three years of "re-education through labor" in a prison camp. Usually this sentence is given on the third offense for church members, often on the

first offense for church leaders and normally for preachers found outside their home area.

◆ Eighty-five underground Christians were arrested in Henan Province in May.

◆ About 40% of inmates in Henan labor camps are imprisoned for house-church activities.

◆ In December in Hebei Province, several underground church members were detained at a train station for carrying imported Bibles and suffered crippling beatings from the security police. They still are unable to walk without aid.

◆ Joseph Fan Zhongliang, the underground Catholic bishop of Shanghai, is under virtual house arrest with police surveillance. In effect, he is prevented from meeting with foreigners.

The renewed repression is "absolutely tied to the collapse of the Soviet empire," Puebla Program director Nina Shea told Baptist Press. The communist leaders "are terrified of Christian beliefs," Shea said. "They are terrified of the notion of individual liberty and a transcendent God."

"They observed the role of the churches" in the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, she said. "They see the churches in their own borders as a threat. If China were to become Christian, the history of the 21st century would be totally different than if it remained atheistic."

The government's campaign, however, has produced the "greatest period of Christian growth in China's history," Shea said.

"Ironically, the very campaign to eradicate the underground churches by the government may be spurring their growth," said Marshall, author of "Their Blood Cries Out," a new book on the persecution of Christians. "Underground leaders say the commitment required to practice one's faith in China leads to a strong, disciplined and growing church."

Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Home Mission Board, also gave a similar report recently after a trip to Taiwan and Hong Kong. In a May 8 on-line conference on SBCNet, Blackaby said he visited with Christian leaders from mainland China and Hong Kong.

"Believers in China since 1949 have gone from about 1 million to estimates ranging from 50 to 100 million," Blackaby wrote. "One church in China last year baptized 1,450 in one day. One small province

in China baptized 60,000 last year.

"The leaders tell their people they're to be salt and light wherever they go and whatever the cost. They're doing it."

The persecution of Christians — as well as the repression of other religions, violations of human rights and the government's one-child population-control policy — has produced another result. A coalition of conservative Christians, human-rights activists and labor unions are mounting a campaign to call for an end to the United States' granting of most-favored-nation (MFN) status to China. MFN status provides China with the same trade rights possessed by nearly all other partners of the United States.

On June 3, bills were introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives to end China's MFN status. President Clinton asked May 29 for Congress to extend China's trade status. Congress has 90 days from the president's request to block MFN. It has been unable to do so in the past.

While most American business interests and economic conservatives favor MFN status for China, the AFL-CIO and many social conservatives oppose it. Among the organizations seeking revocation of MFN are the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, U.S. Catholic Conference, Focus on the Family and Family Research Council.

"Ending the most-favored-nation status we grant to China not only would send a powerful message, it also would end our own official indifference to tyranny," wrote Christian Life Commission President Richard Land in a recent "Dallas Morning News" guest column reprinted in the May-June issue of "Light," the agency's ethics magazine. "Let's end this charade in our relationship with China. Everything we have learned since the Tiananmen Square massacre tells us that China's leadership will be ruthless with its citizens as long as it won't suffer the consequences."

On June 4, the anniversary of the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, Christian Solidarity International-USA President James Jacobson expressed support for the anti-MFN effort in a Washington forum sponsored by FRC, "The Washington Times" reported.

Other evangelical Christian leaders, however, have refused to take a position on MFN and have warned other Christians they should do the same, according to The Times.

NOBTS announces three staffers

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The trustee executive committee of New Orleans Seminary approved a presidential appointment to a new administrative position and elected three new professors during their annual summer meeting June 3 on the seminary campus.

Charles W. Gaines will be dean of students, appointed by seminary President Chuck Kelley.

Gaines has been dean of the college of Christian studies at Grand Canyon University, Phoenix since 1995.

Jerry Wayne Pounds Sr., 42, was re-elected associate professor of Christian education and will be chairman of the seminary's division of Christian education ministries.

Previously a faculty member from 1988-93 and director of the seminary's office of continuing education, Pounds has been associate pastor for administra-

tion at First Church, Spartanburg, S.C., since January 1994.

Adrian Lamkin Jr., 49, was elected associate professor of Baptist history.

He has been director of the William E. Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies and assistant professor of religion at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., since 1981.

In 1993 he received the Historical Commission's Davis C. Woolley Award for outstanding achievement in state Baptist history.

His published works include numerous articles for Baptist History and Heritage, the Missouri Baptist Heritage Series and "The Deacon" magazine.

Trustees and seminary administrators withheld the name of the third professor pending notification of his employer.

An announcement will be made at the beginning of July.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 19, 1997

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

FORMER SUMMER MISSIONARIES SHARE TESTIMONIES



BILL CAUSEY

Alaska - 1950
Mississippi College
Executive Director-Treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

As one of the first college students from Mississippi privileged to go as a summer missionary, I was sincerely blessed. The experiences of that summer have profoundly affected my personal life and ministry all these years since. The dedication and faithfulness of the missionary couple with whom I worked, and the needs of those we worked with, provoke in me a sense of urgency about reaching our world even now.

I would strongly encourage any college age young person to apply for such an opportunity and to take it if it comes. While many who go will not go into church related vocations or missions as a calling, all are called to be full-time Christians in an age that desperately needs those who will become involved in this life-long enterprise. I'm confident it would bless you as it did me.

SUZY PARKERSON McCOLLOUGH

Philippines - 1988
Hinds Community College
Area Coordinator for Residence Life
Hinds Community College

My summer missions experience in the Philippines was a major spiritual marker in my life. God taught me so much about myself, and I was challenged in a way I had never been challenged before. He changed my world view and showed me first hand what it means to serve Him as He leads. God taught me through the Filipino people just what unconditional love looks and feels like. The people there are amazing. They love each other in a very sweet and Christ-like way. They were not concerned with temporary material things. Family is very important and the Christians love God with all of their being. The people are very hungry to hear of a Savior who loves them and gave His life that they might live eternally. I am very grateful to my Lord that He provided this experience for me through the Baptist Student Union. There aren't too many days that go by that God doesn't remind me in some way of my experience in the Philippines. I would encourage all college students to get involved in BSU and summer missions



Since 1947:

-1,849 students have served;

-More than \$1.8 million raised and given by college students.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION

SUMMER MISSIONARIES

50 YEARS

1947-1997



MELANIE BUNTYN McLEOD

Nevada - 1987, Hungary - 1988
Ole Miss
Instructor, Hinds Community College

Summer Missions—six to eight weeks of the most eye-opening, life-changing, vision-expanding experiences of my college years. I spent a summer in Reno, Nevada, and a summer in Budapest, Hungary, which was at the time a communist country. My appreciation for my life and the blessings that God had seen fit to bestow upon me and my family would never be the same after the first summer experience, but after a summer in Hungary, my life would never be the same. I said I would never be two things: a teacher and a long-term missionary. While in Hungary, I was introduced to the Journeyman Program of the Foreign Mission Board. Before leaving Hungary after an incredible summer, I was called to return to Budapest as a Journeyman. Two years later, I did return not only to be a missionary for two years, but to teach English in the public schools of Budapest. God used that experience as a summer missionary to show me where He would be working through me at a point later in my life. He used the Journeyman experience to teach me to love teaching and to show me that He was calling me to be a teacher. Today I am employed as a full-time mathematics instructor at Hinds Community College.

KEN HESTER

Louisiana - 1985
Mississippi State
Pastor, Mantee Baptist Church



Mississippi State's Reflector quoted June Scoggins saying "40% of all summer missionaries go into full-time Christian vocation." As a sophomore in Civil Engineering and a commissioned summer missionary I thought, "Boy, that ain't going to happen to me." I thought giving a summer would be enough and God would leave me alone to do whatever I wanted to do. He did. Ministry is what I want to do. My heart began its change with the summer I spent deep down in Theriot, Louisiana.

Maybe the change occurred during one of those days I dressed up as a clown and got light headed blowing up balloon animals. Maybe the change occurred after I ate fried black bird at a lady's house for Sunday lunch. Maybe the change occurred after I overdosed on the traditional VBS red Kool-Aide and those flower cookies that you stick your finger through before you eat it. Or maybe the change occurred during one of those three hour prayer meetings where all we did was pray. Maybe the change occurred when Michelle trusted Jesus as her Savior after I witnessed to her. Maybe the change occurred the day I spent helping a one armed church member work his shrimp boat so he could pay the month's bills. All I know is that the change is made, and I'm loving life.

BSU - Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders - Today



**Remember
to send in your
report by
August 15!** (includes
projects from August 1996-
August 1997)

Each year the Brotherhood Department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the **number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc.** Please help us by reporting your church and/or association involvement. Complete and return to us the form to the right for **each** project in which your people participated (individuals, youth, music, adults, etc). Mail to: Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

☐ Church Project ☐ Association Project ☐ Individual Project
Your Church and Association _____
Project Coordinator _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ Zip _____

Project Information

TYPE OF PROJECT: ☐ Community ☐ In-State ☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign
Project Location (State or Country) _____
No. of Volunteers in Your Group _____ Dates _____

TYPE OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

☐ Construction ☐ V.B.S. ☐ Survey
☐ Evangelism ☐ Bible Clubs ☐ Other _____
☐ Music No. of decisions _____
☐ Medical/Dental Prof. of faith _____
Other _____

MAIL TO: VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT
Brotherhood Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Rich In Christ Sunday August 24, 1997

**Follow
Christ's
Example**

• **Rich In Christ** is a two-Sunday celebration and special offering designed to boost the church's budget receipts and to give the congregation confidence for renewing mission support commitments.

• All Mississippi Baptist churches are encouraged to set aside August 24 as a day of extraordinary giving. Set a goal to triple the average Sunday's offering. Together we can have a \$10,000,000 offering statewide. Also, lead the church to renew its commitment to Cooperative Program and associational missions giving. Seek to increase percentages or dollar amounts allocated in next year's budget for mission support.

• Back-to-school time offers an excellent opportunity for church members to catch up from the slump in summer attendance and giving. August is early enough in the budget-planning cycle for next year to make a positive impact on mission support.

• Order inspirational materials and envelopes from the Stewardship Department at (800) 748-1651 at no cost. Encourage your church to participate.

Town and Country Church Music Conferences

are designed for music leadership in smaller membership churches: bivocational/volunteer ministers of music, choir members, and keyboard personnel.

July 1997

Area 7
17-18 Woodville BC
6:30 p.m., Thurs.-noon, Fri.
18-19 Shady Grove BC, Hazlehurst
6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

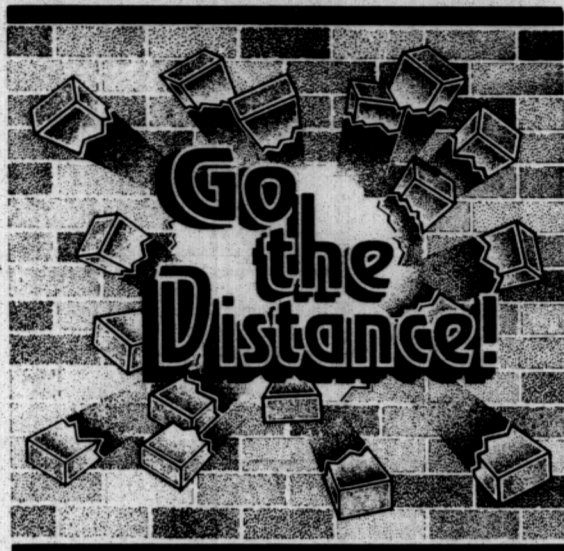
Area 8
24-25 FBC, Collins
6:30 p.m., Thurs.-noon, Fri.
25-26 Calvary BC, Silver Creek
6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

August 1997

Area 9
7-8 Juniper Grove BC, Poplarville
6:30 p.m. Thurs.-noon, Fri.

8-9 Wade BC, Pascagoula
6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

**Call the Church Music Department
for more information or registration
forms at 1-800-748-1651 or
in Jackson at 968-3800.**



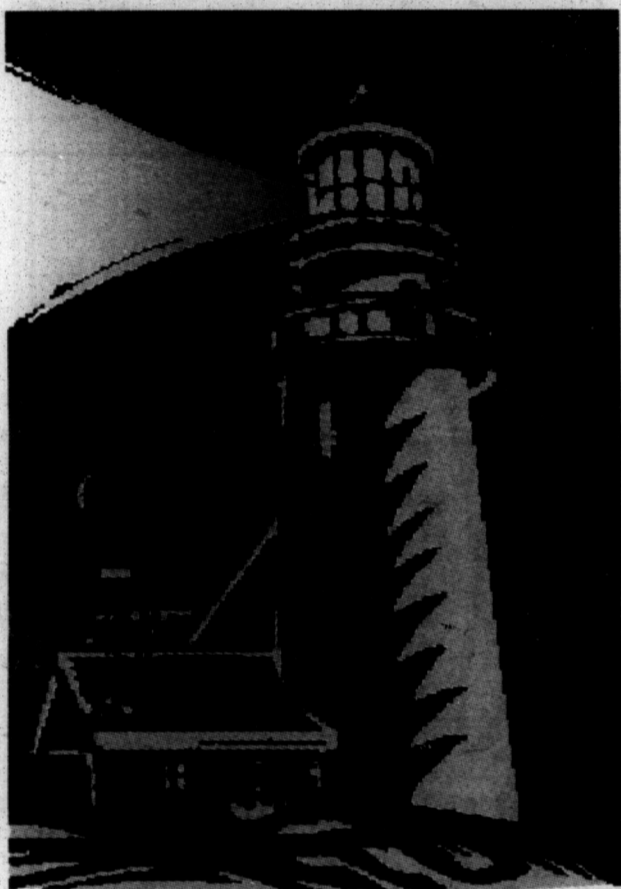
Super Summer '97
with Mike Curry
July 21-25
Mississippi College, Clinton

Name _____
Church _____ Phone _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____

Return this form to:
Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept., MBCB
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Request For Registration Packet

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 15 AND ENDS JUNE 30 - All applications received after June 30 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. Applications received after July 7 may be refused. Space is limited.



Follow Your Vision
On-To-College Day 1997

**GET INVOLVED:
ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY**

What is it? On-To-College Day recognizes each student as they enter classes in the fall. It is observed on a special Sunday of your choice either in July or early August. Included are all students whether they remain in the community or leave home to attend college, and whether beginning-college or a returning student. This emphasis typically includes an On-To-College worship service with an optional luncheon. For free bulletin inserts or more information, call the Department of Student Work at 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson at 968-3800.

1997
**Basic and Advanced
Secretary Certification
Seminars**

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

BASIC - August 19-21, 1997
Led by Glenda Suggs

ADVANCED - August 19-21, 1997
Led by Jane Barrett

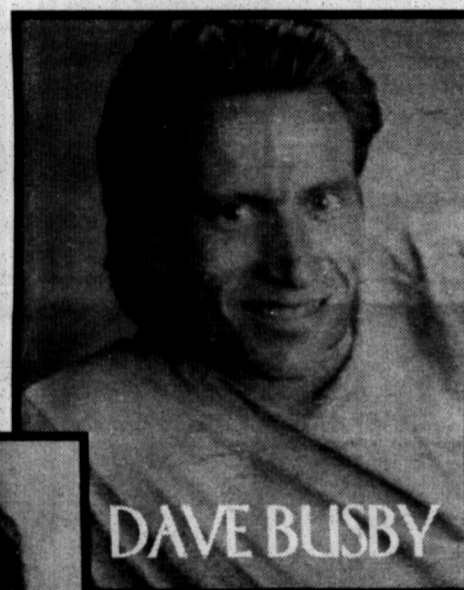
For more information, contact Anne Martin at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800, ext. 3905

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
YOUTH
NIGHT '97**

Same program —
choose one to attend

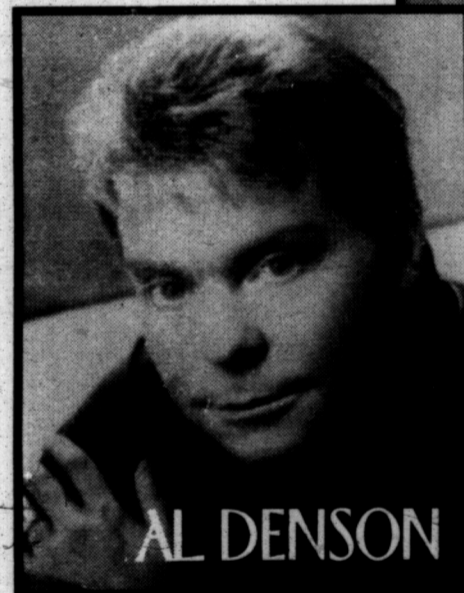
July 25, 1997 • 7 p.m.
July 26, 1997 • 10 a.m.

MISSISSIPPI
FAIRGROUNDS
COLISEUM



DAVE BUSBY

*Challenging
Today's
Youth for
Christ*



AL DENSON

Guidelines

- Encourage your youth to bring their unsaved and inactive friends
- Encourage each person to bring a Bible
- Appropriate dress is requested
- No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or illegal drugs will be permitted
- No radios or taping equipment will be permitted
- Counselor training at 6:15 p.m. on Friday and 9:15 a.m. on Saturday

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

On Mission With God Through Prayer

God is inviting you to be on mission with Him, through prayer, to the ends of the earth.

Prayer has many elemental expressions such as worship, which exalts Him with love; praise, which lifts up His virtues; confession, which opens the door to forgiveness and restoration; and intercession, which is literally crying out to God on behalf of another.

Normal University, located in Tianjin, China, has housed foreign Christian students and teachers over the years. Pray that seeds planted would bloom and that students and teachers would be saved.

Christian Citizenship Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Thank God for the protection and privileges our country gives us as citizens. Pray that all Americans will be committed to their civic and political duties in order to make our nation a better place in which to live.

Pray for protection and strengthening of the marriages of God's people in Yemen. There are many struggles in the marriages of both nationals and foreigners.

For Youth Conference VI, Gulfshore Assembly, June 23-27; sponsored by MBCB. For Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat, June 23-27; sponsored by the Brotherhood. For Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat, June 23-27; sponsored by the Brotherhood. For GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, 10 am, 23rd noon, 27th; sponsored by the WMU.

For GA Mini-Camp, Camp Garaywa; 10 am, 30th-noon, July 2nd; sponsored by the WMU. Pray for Macau during these days when Satan is strongly at work through the gambling industry and related gangs. Pray that the forces of evil will be overcome and that the Christians will be "salt and light" in Macau.

For Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp; Central Hills Retreat, July 7-11; sponsored by the Brotherhood.

Continue to lift up the five families of Baptist Representatives in Morocco who are currently working on Arabic language study.

For Family Enrichment Conference; Gulfshore Assembly, July 1-5; sponsored by Discipleship & Family Ministry.

Baptist representative Danny Stampey has a good relationship with an unbeliever in Pagsanjan, Philippines, named Ate Juling. Pray that God would give Danny many opportunities to witness to Ate Juling, and that she would be saved.

Pray for believers who are Western wives of local men in the Arab Gulf. Many of them have a very difficult struggle. They are often restricted from attending church services or taking their children to church. Pray that they can find ways to meet with believers for spiritual support.

Recently the leadership and ownership of Baptist Publications in Beirut, Lebanon, was turned over to a committee of national Baptist men. Pray for these seven men as they strategize for the future, looking for ways of reaching the Arab reading world through Christian literature.

As missionaries Charley and Becky Hood and Milton and Nannette Lites prepare to work as a team to open a new work in Ciudad Salitre, Colombia. Pray for each one to maintain an upright heart and obey the Lord. Pray for unity in vision and in planning methods.

Three vehicles have been stolen from the Baptist conference center, Israel. A box of Bibles was in one of the vehicles. Pray that the people will end up reading the Bibles and believe in Christ.

Give thanks to God for the Chungli Baptist Church's vision for student ministry in Taiwan. Pray for His wisdom and direction as they organize for ministry and involve many church members. Pray for one church member's outreach to the principal of the high school where she teaches.

For Music Leadership Conference, June 10-12; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 5 pm, 20th-noon, 21st; sponsored by the WMU. People in Chad are experiencing the worst famine they have had in 13 years. Pray for a solution to the famine and for a good rainy season this year.

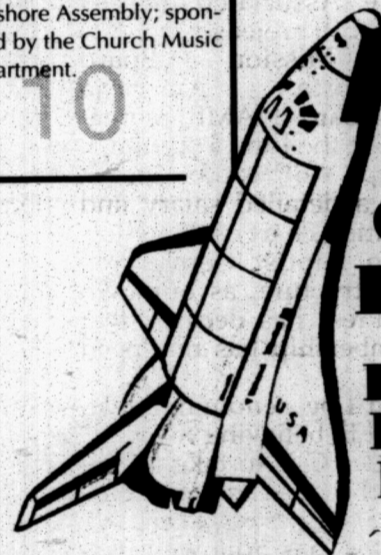
For Lad/Dad Weekend Camp; Central Hills Retreat, June 27-28; sponsored by the Brotherhood. For HeartSong '97, Gulfshore Assembly, June 27-July 1; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

Thank God for **Independence Day**, the birthday of the United States of America and the day on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1776. John Adams said, "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

For Jericho Week at Ridgecrest Assembly, June 21-27. "When the British island of Hong Kong becomes a Special Admin. Region of communist China at the stroke of midnight July 1, God has signaled His intent to do something big in the Far East" says missionary Larry Ingram. Pray that China's Religious Affairs Dept. will not try to influence or interfere with churches in Hong Kong.

"Mary" is a convert and married to a non-believer in Egypt. She is trying to share her faith with family and friends. Pray that God will give her courage and protection. Also pray that God will send someone into her life who is a strong believer to disciple her.

For Young Musicians Conference; Gulfshore Assembly, July 5-9; sponsored by the Church Music Department.



Follow Christ's Example:

Boldly Go Where Few Have Gone Before!

Sunday School Leadership Conference September 12-13, 1997 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**Conference begins Friday at 5 p.m.
and ends Saturday at noon.**

Come and explore what it truly means to follow Christ's example. This is a great conference for new and experienced workers. Guides for the journey will be provided for workers of all age groups. No childcare provided.

**For housing information or reservations
contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
at 601-452-7261.**

**Sponsored by the
Sunday School Department, MBCB**



AUGUST

MR. EVERETT D. PRESLEY
P.O. Box 4737, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Johnny & Beth, Religious Education; S. BRAZIL

6-83 MISS AUDRA C. FUNDERBURK,
4319 Iroquois, New Orleans, LA 70126
Parents: Ricky & Lori, Mission Administration; SIERRA LEONE

12-78 MISS B. TRACY THOMAS
P.O. Box 4533, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Robert & Beverly, Hospital Administration; YEMEN

18-82 MR. TIMOTHY STAMPS, c/o Glen Morgan
501 N. Pleasant Street, Hillsboro, TX 77645
Parents: Keith & Penny, General Evangelism; NICARAGUA

19-89 MISS ANDREA BAILEY
83 HIGHWAY 341 SOUTH, VARDAMAN, MS 38878
Parents: Kenneth & Ruth, Theological Education; BOLIVIA

28-86 MR. ROSS E. FUNDERBURK
4319 IROQUOIS, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70126
Parents: Ricky & Lori, Mission Administration; SIERRA LEONE

28-79 MR. SHERIDAN COREY
7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520
Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance

31-82 MR. MARK W. HENDRICKS
Apartado 1010-7050, Cartago, COSTA RICA
Parents: Larry D. & Mary W., General Evangelism

HOUSE TOPS

THANKS FOR MEMORIES

Editor:

This is to express my appreciation to everyone responsible for the recent 150th anniversary of Yockanookany Church, Attala County. It was a very successful and memorable occasion for all who attended.

Karel Kendall Cole
Starkville

MISSION DOCS NEEDED

Editor:

The Mississippi College (MC) School of Nursing is busy preparing for our annual mission trip to Mexico. We are grateful to Mississippi Baptists who have already sent medical supplies, food, and money. We are especially thankful for the many prayers offered to God on our behalf.

This year we have a tremendous need. The physicians who were planning to accompany us had to cancel. We need one or two physicians to help us minister in Mexico. Anyone interested should immediately call the MC School of Nursing at (601) 925-3380.

Mary Ann Henriques
Jackson

USE MISS. EVANGELISTS

Editor:

As a pastor, I would like to encourage other pastors to use some of our state evangelists in your church. We have some of the finest men and women to be found anywhere that are involved in full-time vocational evangelism. Billy Graham said, "the gift of the evangelist is just as valid and crucial today as it was in New Testament times."

Evangelists need the church. Evangelists depend on churches for invitations to use their gift in ministry and for financial support. Because of the itinerant and seasonal nature of

their ministries, many evangelists have a difficult time surviving financially.

Churches need the evangelist — the evangelist assists the pastor in four ways:

As a harvester — many evangelists have a special gift for "drawing the net." They are able to share the gospel in a way that many will respond.

As a soul-winner — evangelists may be able to reach people the church or pastor can't reach.

As an inspirer — evangelists often become agents for revival and spiritual awakening within a church.

As an equipper — evangelists aid the pastor and members in awakening members' conviction to reach their acquaintances for Christ; they can help church members learn to share Christ effectively.

It is my prayer that you would seriously pray about using our state evangelists in your church.

James Young, pastor
Antioch Church, Union

FIRE AND ICE

Editor:

Thank you for printing the renegade Associated Baptist Press (ABP) release on the Home Mission Board (HMB)/North American Mission Board (NAMB) reorganization in the June 5 edition.

Perhaps ABP could furnish us with a detailed salary and organization chart of the whole Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) restructure, as our own Baptist Press has decided that the membership has no "need to know."

Would I be denominationally-correct in believing that:

◆ The SBC is to take a final vote on the reorganization this month, as the SBC Executive Committee has followed this mandate by using the most qualified people they could

find — and the brothers-in-law of many doing the reorganization just happened to be the most qualified?

◆ The former chairman of Implementation Task Force (ITF) is the best qualified candidate for NAMB president and after the structure to include salary ranges was set, he graciously stepped down to avoid conflict of interest charges as the unbiased choice of ITF?

◆ I am expected to lead my church in stewardship, promote all SBC funding requests, and extract the "widow's mite" to pay salaries double those of federal employees who manage organizations ten times larger with budgets numbered in the billions?

I have devised an interim plan as I don't have all the facts. I will preach my next SBC stewardship sermon on the first Sunday after I am totally convinced that ancient Sheol and modern Antarctica are synonymous!

Donald R. Windham, pastor
Ted Church, Bay Springs

RETURNING TO U.S.

Editor:

This is our final newsletter as missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board. It is with great sadness that we must inform you of our decision to remain in the U.S. at this time in our lives.

As many of you know, we left Brazil in 1993 to transfer to the former USSR, the Republic of Ukraine. We transferred back to Brazil in 1995 due to the great difficulties that Benjamin had in adjustment to Ukraine.

In September of 1996 our world changed forever. Benjamin had immediate needs to return to the United States for counseling. The Foreign Mission Board fully supported us and allowed us to take medical furlough. We eventually

settled in the mission residence at Calvary Church, Tupelo. We traveled back and forth to Memphis for about three months of intensive counseling for Benjamin. In January, he was released and has done extremely well. The counselor recommended that we not attempt to return to Brazil at this time.

The middle of April found us moving to McMinnville, Tenn. to become the director of missions of Central Association.

Our new address is 224 Vinewood Road, Apt. 39, McMinnville, TN 37110. Our phone number is (615) 473-9311.

Roger and Penny Stacy
McMinnville, Tenn.

REMEMBERING STRAUSS

Editor:

In 1975 I had just begun my first pastorate at Ellison Ridge Church, Louisville. I wanted to preach through the book of James. I came across a book entitled "James, Your Brother" by Lehman Strauss. What a blessing and a help it was!

A few years later I found out that Strauss was teaching at a Sunday School Bible Teaching Conference sponsored by our state convention. Needless to say, I made sure I was there for every session.

In 1987 I went to a Moody Keswick Bible Conference at St. Petersburg, Fla. at which Strauss was the Bible teacher for the week. I got to spend some time in conversation and fellowship with him. I asked him if he ever went to small churches. He replied, "I only go where I'm invited." I invited him. He came — the first time in 1989, then in 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

He was scheduled to come back in 1999 but on June 5, 1997 from St. Joseph Hospital in Tampa, Fla. Lehman Strauss entered heaven to be welcomed by his Lord and multitudes who are there because of his faithful ministry of the Word.

Over a decade ago Strauss suffered a massive heart attack and was told by his doctors that he would never preach again. This year, at the age of 85, he was scheduled to preach 31 meetings.

We at First Church, Sumrall take this opportunity to honor the memory of a true Christian gentleman and wonderful Bible teacher, and to thank God for his ministry among us.

Glen Davis, pastor
First Church, Sumrall

BUDGET PRINTERS

All types of Baptist printing under one roof.

◆ Letterheads ◆ Brochures
◆ Business Cards ◆ Newsletters
and more at wholesale prices!

Call today for more information.
(601) 355-5029

BR not publishing July 4

There will be no Baptist Record published on Thursday, July 3. Publication will resume on July 10.

News items to appear in the July 10 issue should arrive in The Baptist record office no later than noon on Thursday, July 3.

Churches which utilize the "special page" feature on page

1 or 12 of The Baptist Record should ensure those items arrive in the Jackson offices of Cain Lithographers by noon on Tuesday July 8.

Because of the newspaper's agreement with the United States Postal Service, The Baptist Record publishes only 50 issues a year, taking hiatus the weeks of July 4 and Christmas.

VINYL SIDING • NEVER PAINT AGAIN

• ROOM ADDITIONS - NO DOWN PAYMENT - 100% FINANCING
• CARPORTS SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS As Low As
• SUN ROOMS
• PATIOS - DECKS
• LICENSED
• BONDED
• INSURED SENIOR CITIZENS EXTRA DISCOUNT

PAY-less Home Improvements, Inc. • Jackson

Integrating Faith and Learning
Wayland Integrity, Glorieta Majesty



Located in the Rocky Mountains of Northern New Mexico, Wayland Baptist University and Glorieta Conference Center have recently joined together to offer students a one-of-a-kind educational experience.

Now students have an opportunity to study, work, and live year-round at Glorieta, where they will receive a rich Christian education within a nationally recognized liberal arts curriculum.

For admissions and financial aid information contact:

Wayland Baptist
University-Glorieta
A Christian Liberal Arts Institution
P.O. Box 282, Glorieta, NM 87535
505-757-3072



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY
in Eureka Springs, Ark. Super \$33
Group Pkg. includes the best (\$14.50)
Tickets, plus fun, lodging, and meals.
Our 25th year of Christian service!
KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM
(501) 253-8418

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Fred Tarpley will be honored at Old Rice Road Church, Madison, on June 22 for his 60 years in the ministry. A recep-

tion will be held in his honor from 2:30-4 p.m.

David Sills, pastor of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, has recently graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. He received the doctor of ministry degree at graduation exercises held on May 16.

Jerry L. Pitts Jr. was ordained to the ministry May 25 by Temple Church, Jackson. He is a student at Mississippi

College and serves as minister of education/outreach at Temple Church. Pictured, first row, are Scott Worley, pastor; Pitts; Lance Fendley; second row, Roger Greene, professor of Christian Studies & Philosophy, Mississippi College; John Meadors; Michael Johnson; Tommy Shumaker; and Sim Worley.



Jerry L. Pitts Jr.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



RAs and GAs (pictured) of Hillcrest Church, Jackson, collected 25 bags of pinto beans and rice for Mississippi College's School of Nursing Mexico trip. John Taylor is pastor.

Flowood Church, Flowood, will have a patriotic celebration on June 29, beginning with the regular 10:30 a.m. worship service, dinner on the grounds, and a special presentation by the adult choir and cast of the musical "Liberty," at 1 p.m. G. R. Ricky Gray is pastor and the choir is under the direction of Danny Brock.

Chaparral Church, Waynesboro, received \$2,795 for the Annie Armstrong Offering.

REVIVAL DATES

Fentress (Choctaw): June 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Randal Jackson, McComb, evangelist; Summer Liddell, music; Jerry Wise, pastor.

Pleasant Grove, Gore Springs: June 22-27; 7 p.m. nightly; speakers are Dwayne Kelly, Sunday; Dale Easley, Mon.; Dan Robertson, Tues.; Jeff Gilder, Wed.; Walter Simmons,

Thurs.; and Al Gaspard, Fri.; Neil T. Gant, pastor, music.

Cash, Lena: June 22-27; 7:30 p.m.; Clyde Little, Bay Springs, evangelist; Henry Moreau, interim pastor.

Beatline, Philadelphia: June 22-27; 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Creel, Meridian, evangelist; Lee Killen, Union, music; Ben McDaniel, pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education is offering two WordPerfect 6.1 classes this summer. The first session will be on July 14-18, while the second is scheduled for July 28-Aug. 1. The classes will meet from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 925-3265.

Freshman orientation and registration for students entering William Carey College will be held June 24. Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. Complimentary lunch will be served at 11:30 in Wilkes Dining Hall, followed by advisement and registration in Thomas Business Building at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact the admissions office at (601) 582-6208 or 800-962-5991, ext. 208.

Registration for second summer term at Mississippi College is scheduled for June 30. For additional information,

call the Office of Admissions at (601) 925-3240 or (800) 738-1236. For graduate school information call (601) 925-3225.

Mississippi College is the recipient of numerous research grants and awards for the coming year. Steven Denison, assistant professor of Biology, has received a grant for research from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$143,000 for 3 years. David Magers, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, is a recipient of a \$17,000 Cottrell College Science Award presented by the Research Corporation of Tucson, Ariz. Magers has also been awarded a research grant of \$61,000

through the NSF EPSCOR program. The Mathematics and Computer Science Department has received a grant of approximately \$56,000. The amount will fully fund the summer geometry institute for area geometry teachers being held June 2-27.

Revival results

Bluff Springs, Magnolia: May 18-21; Gary M. Bowlin, evangelist; Victor Walsh, interim pastor; seven professions of faith, one by letter, and one by statement.



HOLYLAND - 10 Days
including JORDAN - PETRA - MASADA
November 11, 1997

- Bible Studies on location
 - Worship services in churches in Bethlehem and Nazareth
 - Communion at The Garden Tomb
 - Baptism in the River Jordan
 - Music by **THE MUSIC MEN**
- (Bill Clark - W.W. Holifield - Tom Larrimore)
"A Trip you will never forget"

TOUR HOST
TOM LARRIMORE
1156 Winnrose St.
Jackson, MS 39211
601-956-1891

BIBLE STUDY CRUISE

7 DAYS FROM
NEW ORLEANS
February 6, 1998

Led By
WAYLON BAILEY
Pastor, FBC
Covington, LA

CALL FOR INFORMATION
1-800-392-0522

CHURCH BUSES
#1 MANUFACTURER
COMPETITIVE PRICING

SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.
CLINTON, MS
1-800-423-9826
1-601-924-1982

Pews, pulpits, baptistries,
stained glass, carpet,
steeples, lighting,
folding doors,
theater seats.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted.

WANTED: The Broadman Bible Commentary, Broadman Press, copyright 1970. Will consider buying any or all volumes. 1-800-876-6959 (day).

CFI - PEWS, NEW & used. Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

ATTENTION! PASTORS/MINISTERS - Hundreds of churches each month call us looking for a Pastor or Minister. Call (800) 917-9599 for your confidential information packet. Southern Baptist Ministers Staffing Service.

PASSENGER VANS FOR private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/

limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

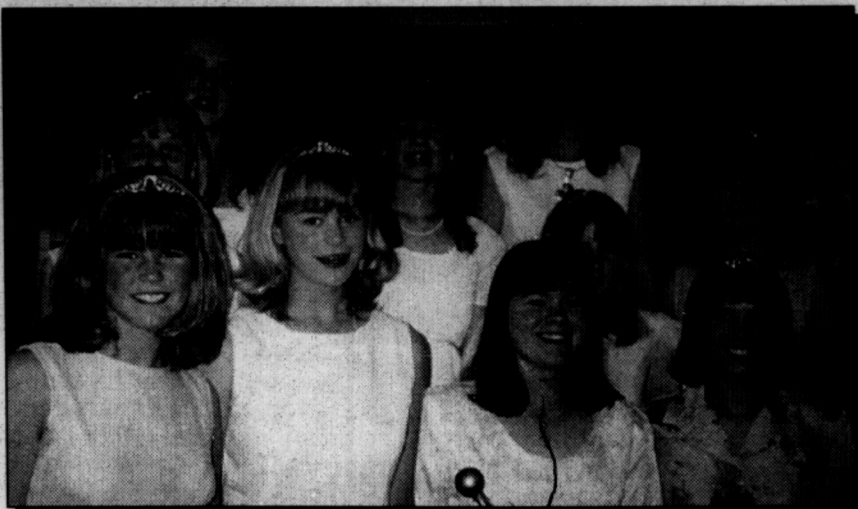
HEIDLEBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. MURPHY ROBE SALES. Call (601) 483-3171 or 1-800-368-2705.

AIRLINE BAPTIST CHURCH seeks full-time youth minister. Send Resumes: Airline Baptist Church, 4007 Airline Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Crystal Springs Acteens

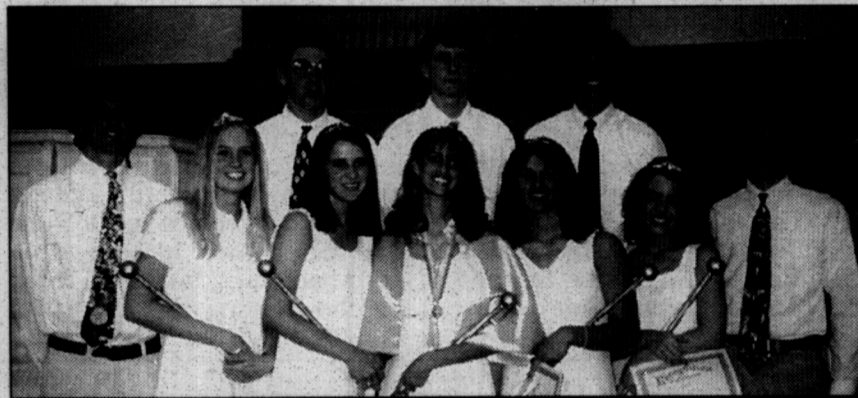


First Church, Senatobia Acteens



GAs and Acteens of First Church, Crystal Springs, were honored May 25. GAs presented badges and certificates, pictured front row (from left) are Elizabeth Shull, Jessie Miller, Anna Beasley, Katie Berch, Jackie Lang; second row, Morgan Sprouse, Olivia Lang, Amelia Shull, Allison Bryant, Dee Anna Runnels, Marcy McDonald, Lori Walters, Kellie Walters, Rachel Berry, Jennifer Harris, and Mallory Sullivan.

Acteens (top), pictured front row, are Sallie Burt, Abby Berry, Bethany Harris, and Angela Bryant, Queens; second row, Jessica Harris and Elaine Baxter, Queens with Scepter; Lacey McDonald and Kathy Sullivan, Queen Regents in Service; and Sarah Beasley and Sarah Beth Watkins, Queens with Scepter.



First Church, Senatobia Acteens with escorts



First Church, Senatobia, recently held a Recognition Service for its GAs and Acteens. Pictured are GAs, seventh and eighth grade Acteens, and ninth-12th grade Acteens and escorts. Emmy Jarjoura is director.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptisries
★ Steeples ★ Renovation
★ Pews and Pulpit Furniture
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551
Jackson 957-3762

VBS dates

Oak Forest, Jackson: June 23-27; 6-8:30 p.m.; children ages 3 through 12.

Arrowood, Meridian: July 7-11; 6-9 p.m. nightly.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.

Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!



MEDICAL EVANGELISM TEAM TO ROMANIA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Great Commission Ministries, The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Baptists of Romania invite you to be a part of a Medical/Evangelism team to Brasov, Romania on Sept. 5-14, 1997.

The team will conduct medical clinics, personal evangelism, and Bible School daily. **Needed are Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Nurses, Medical and Dental Assistants, BIBLE SCHOOL WORKERS, CLERICAL WORKERS, PASTORS, AND PEOPLE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

For more information, contact Mr. Gray Harvey at (601) 542-3217 phone/fax.
Great Commission Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 1
Liberty, MS 39645

HOMECOMINGS

Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel: June 22; services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch at noon; Garland McKee, Clinton, speaker; Walter Hines, pastor.

Mt. Nebo, Collinsville: June 22; 10 a.m. service, 12:15 p.m.

covered dish dinner, and 1:15 p.m. singing; memorial service for cemetery; James M. Snowden, Collinsville, guest speaker.

Palestine, Harrisville: June 22; 10:45 a.m.; 12:15 p.m., dinner in fellowship hall with cemetery business following; Carl Burns, pastor.

Are you paying too much for your Hospital or Medicare Supplement Insurance? If yes, call for our Low Rates Today!

☐ Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.
Many Pre-Existing Health Conditions acceptable — High blood pressure, Diabetes, Heart conditions, etc. (Excellent Rates on ages 50+)

☐ Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. No waiting periods.
Low Rates!
Prescription Savers Plan: Save up to 50% on prescription drugs!

☐ Medicare Supplement under age 65

Call today for free information:

E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

1-800-463-4348

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Keep the faith

2 Timothy 4:1-18

By Paul Blanchard

As he approached the end of life, Paul reflected on his service to our Lord Jesus. He encouraged Timothy to be faithful in all circumstances. This command implies that all Christians are to be on duty and take advantage of every opportunity for serving our Lord. Opposition is sure to come. We must be prepared for it.

Paul warned Timothy that there would be a time when people would turn to teachers who would tell them what they wanted to hear rather than telling them the truth. Paul gave Timothy three features that would develop as evidence

of a craving for false teaching. First, listeners would not put up with "sound teachers." Second, they would find teachers "to suit their own desires." Third, they would do this because they want only to satisfy the "itching" in their ears. Some speakers toy with the minds of hearers but leave the intellect uninformed, the conscience unchallenged, and the will set in a direction away from God.

It is important to realize that Paul was speaking to believers in this passage. In verse 4, Paul outlined two results of spiritual wandering. First, the listeners would turn away from hearing



Blanchard

the truth of the gospel (2 Timothy 2:18). Second, they would turn aside to myths. We see this subtle effect today in many of our churches. Members leave and go to cult groups because what the cult group says sounds good. There is just enough truth to cause people to follow them.

The main message of the cult group, however, is false. It is time that we warned our people just as Paul was warning Timothy.

Believers are to be alert, to endure suffering, to share the gospel, and to carry out fully their Christian service. The alertness Timothy was to possess was not just a calmness of spirit but an ability to be watchful and cautious with reference to the false teachings around him. Timothy faced hardships, but he endured it without giving in to it.

With confidence and hope Paul declared that he had faithfully done all that was expected and was ready to go on to his reward (4:6-8). Paul was not boasting, but was reflecting on his life course with confidence. He was describing what the grace of God had produced in him. The victory Paul received is described as a "crown of righteousness." The crown was a reward given to a victorious athlete for victory in a contest. The phrase "of righteousness" may refer to the crown either as a reward for righteous behavior or as a gift consisting of righteousness awarded by the judge when he returns. Jesus Christ is the judge who will bestow the award in connection with his return. The behavior Paul desired to see in Timothy was in distinct contrast with the behavior of Demas in 4:10.

The knowledge that God rewards and recognizes faithful

Christian service is an incentive to godly living. A confidence in God's bestowal of rewards is encouraged by a knowledge of his faithfulness. God is faithful to believers; he will not ignore their works; he will justly evaluate all of them. This knowledge is an incentive to obedience to God. Those who receive rewards will not be able to boast. They will be able to offer praise to God. He will receive all glory and honor.

Recognizing that our precious Lord Jesus died for us should cause us to become more committed in sharing Jesus with family members. It is by His grace that we are saved. There is no good work in us that can take us to heaven or cleanse our sin. The precious blood of Jesus is what cleanses us of all sin (Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7 & I John 1:7).

Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.

LIFE AND WORK

Giving

Psalms 50:7-13, 23; 66:13-15

By Becky Bennett

I love to give gifts. I enjoy looking for just the right gift. Most of the gifts I give are gifts I would like to receive. We spend time, effort, and money giving gifts to family and friends. This is an expression of our love for them. How much more important it is for us to learn to be faithful and generous in our giving as an expression of our devotion to God.

Give Regularly (50:7-8). Any activity done regularly and routinely often becomes a habit. Habits can be both good and bad. Regular giving of our possessions and ourselves is

good. However as we see in these verses, giving can become so routine we do it without thinking. When we give just because it is expected or if we give no thought to the gift, our gift is not acceptable. God does not need our gifts — he already has all of creation at his disposal. He wants our devotion and love which will motivate us to give appropriately and continuously.

Give Devotedly (50:9-13, 23). God wants our gifts and sacrifices to come from a heart motivated by our love for him. There is no reason for God to tell us if he needs something.



Bennett

Everything is already his. God does not need our gifts, but he wants them. Giving is a very important part of our worship and praise of God. We must guard against substituting the practice of religion for its real substance. God wants Christians to commit themselves to recognizing him as God. Our gifts are an appropriate expression of our worship, but the gifts must also be a demonstration of our total faithfulness to God.

Give Faithfully (66:13-14). God expects, deserves and wants our faithfulness. In these verses the psalmist recognizes the deliverance and provision of God. As a result of a thankful heart, offerings and sacrifices are promised to God. The psalmist fulfills his promises. God expects us to be faithful in fulfilling our

promises as well. Because God has done so much for us, we should be continuously looking for ways in which to give back to God. Our hearts should be overflowing with thanksgiving motivating us to multiply our gifts according to the deliverance and provision that God has given us. We cannot out give God. However, we must be faithful in our worship by giving enthusiastically and joyfully to God.

Give Generously (66:15). Generous is a relative term. What might be generous for one might be only a pittance for another. God knows our resources — time, energy, talents, material possessions. He expects us to give generously of those resources because he has given generously of his resources to us. When we think about giving in relationship to what God has given to us, how can we be anything but gener-

ous? This verse teaches us that we should give as much as we can and the very best that we have. God gave his very best to us. Why do we give him our leftovers?

When the young boy offered his bread and two tiny fish to Jesus, it was the best he had and all he had. Jesus blessed his small lunch and it became a bountiful provision for many hungry people. God does the same thing when we offer him our insignificant gifts. He takes what little we have and uses it mightily for his glory.

What about your pattern of giving? Are you cultivating the spiritual discipline of giving in your life? God wants you to express your devotion and love to him by being faithful and generous in your giving.

Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Tempering freedom with love

I Corinthians 8:1-13

By Greg McBride

It seems that there was a disagreement in the Corinthian church over the propriety of eating meat that had been offered in sacrifice to pagan gods. Only a portion of the animal killed for sacrifice was burnt on the altar. The rest was divided between the priest and the offerer. Priests generally sold their portions in the market and the offerers took theirs home and ate it. Therefore in Corinth finding a steak that had not been dedicated to a pagan deity was next to impossible.

Both sides of the disagree-

ment in the church held passionate opinions, and neither side was ready to relinquish their convictions. Paul's response to this apparent impasse in the church at Corinth can help Christians today as they seek to serve God with other Christians who are at different levels of spiritual maturity.

Love Superior to Knowledge (8:1-3). There was definitely a right and wrong side in this issue. The prophets in the Old Testament proclaimed that idols were illusions. Therefore the ritual of



McBride

sacrificing to them had no legitimate effect on the meat used in the sacrificial ritual. Paul agreed with those who held this conviction or knowledge. However, Paul cautioned those who claimed this knowledge to be careful not to allow their knowledge to harm the spiritual devel-

opment of their Christian brothers on the other side of the issue. The Corinthians were to understand that relating to these brothers in love was more important than their personal spiritual insight.

You and I need to learn the lesson from this episode in the life of the Corinthians and Paul's counsel to them. Facts never outweigh love in a disagreement between Christian brothers. We should take that

with us to our next controversial business meeting.

God Superior to Idols (8:4-6). Paul took this opportunity in his instruction to develop the Corinthian's understanding of God. Since God was one and no other God existed, the Christian's allegiance should go exclusively to God. Idols, such as money, fame, social position, etc. are allusions and have no power. Though they exist in our society, the Christian should not trust them for happiness. Instead, he should trust God.

Furthermore, Paul told the Corinthians that God did not exist for them but they for God. Understanding this relationship should affect the way we approach God. God is not ours to use to manipulate our world to suit our fancy. Rather, we are God's people redeemed to

accomplish his purpose in the world.

Influence Superior to Freedom (8:7-13). Finally, Paul gave a practical example in order to drive home his point that knowledge was not more important than the responsibility Christians have for their brothers in Christ. If a weaker brother saw you dining in an idol's temple and it caused him to turn from God, though you would not be sinning by eating the food, you would be sinning in your influence on the weaker brother. Yes, you heard right. As an enlightened child of God you might have to deny yourself some clearly legitimate behavior whenever practicing that behavior could cause another to turn from God. You are your brother's keeper.

McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive
Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND
CHILDREN INC.

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**MARCH 1, 1997-
MARCH 31, 1997**

MEMORIALS

Lou Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Dean
Mrs. Bonnie Johnson
Ms. Pennie S. Dempsey
Judge Bert Jones
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Mr. & Mrs. Bowman McGehee
Mrs. H. Lee Quin
Mary Frances Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse E. Brock
Mr. Willard D. Jones
Mrs. Rosa M. Miller
Mrs. Ninnie Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Rev. Harold Jones
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. James Curtis Evans
Mr. & Mrs. David Lee King
Warren Bapt. Assoc. Ministers
Larry & Cheryl Cox
Dr. & Mrs. Chester Masterson
Mr. & Mrs. Riley D. Alford
Carolina M. Holloway
Beth Johnson
Sarah & Jim Pilgrim
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Smith
Grace Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Scott and Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Graham and Family
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Holliday and Family
Frank & Elizabeth Pajerski
Frank Kalberg
John M. Gardner
Mr. Joe Ed Kea
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell F. Dickens
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Sikes & Family
Adam Holt King
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Thelma King
Bobbie Stevenson
Lamar Knight
Adult 7 Men's SSC FBC Louisville
Lonnie Knight
Mr. Robert N. Walters
E. L. Lambert
FBC/Greenwood-Harry Hall's SSC
Jeremy Langley
Louise Etheredge
Betty & Griffin Ford
Judy & Larry Silcox
Amanda Latham
Mr. & Mrs. Richie Defenbaugh
Wilma G. Lawrence
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Mr. David Nathan Legge
Mr. Ray Legge
Mildred Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Jaggars
Mrs. Louise Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Belvedere
Mr. & Mrs. T. A. Ligan
Mrs. Irvin Johnson
Mr. T. A. Ligan
Mrs. H. M. Frederick
Mr. Thomas Ligon, Sr.
Mrs. Mavis Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Branscome Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. John D. Harper
Jack Little
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith
D'vo Lloyd
Mrs. Amye Wiggs
Mrs. Bessie Lofton
Edgar & Willene Fryery
Mr. George Loper
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Brannon
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Eldridge
Ruth Davis Loper
Dink & Edna Gibson
Mrs. Flora Lusk
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Garrett
Mrs. Anna Luthie

Lou & Libby Billock
Mr. & Mrs. Haughey D. Wallace Jr.
Alvin E. Malley
John M. Gardner
Floyd Malone
Mr. & Mrs. Emmett M. Brown
Gene & Patricia Holliman
Mrs. Dorothy Mangold
Billy Mangold
Mr. Billy Marshall
Bill & Paula Davidson
Mrs. Esther Bobo Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams
Norman Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Elwood R. Bishop
Doug Mauldin
Mrs. Grace W. Miller
George Mayo
Mr. & Mrs. Charley W. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Carpenter
Herbert McAlpin
Frank & Elizabeth Pajerski
Dr. Elton McAmis
Mrs. Ed T. Crisler Jr.
Scott McCorkle
Ms. Katherine W. Melton
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. McDaniel
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Rogers
Mrs. Mary E. McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. H. Lanier Foote
J. T. McMillan
Dan & Joyce Lassetter
Robert Cline McMillan, II
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Bowers
Miley & Sutie McMullan
Mr. & Mrs. Alton A. Barber
Mr. Jimmy McNabb
Mr. H. M. Austin Jr.
Jack McNeese
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.
Louise Mercer
Ms. Janice L. LeVines
Norine Milam
Mr. & Mrs. John Champion
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. E. Wayne Smith
Master Chandler Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. VanNorman
Mrs. Marie Mitchell
Ira Lee & Lucille Kirkpatrick Jr.
John Thomas Mize, Sr.
Johnny & Bobbie Walton
Charlie Molpus
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Duke
Mrs. Flora Moody
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Pollan

Analiza Scott Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Barbee
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Young
Bobbie & Walter Barbee
Mr. James C. Moore
Mr. Howard L. Green, Jr.
Mrs. M.S. Green
Billy Mangold
Mr. J. B. Moorehead
Hal & Virginia Lewis
Emma Jane Morris
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Cowles
Eugene Myers
Mrs. Frances Myers
Willie Mae Myrick
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley S. Denison
Mrs. Juanita Nations
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy D. Myers
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Neal
Mrs. Thomas W. Dawson
John Niles
Rev. & Mrs. William F. Evans
Maggie Owens
Magnolia Forest Products/Employee
Phillip & Keely Oxner
Mrs. Lucille Bodie
Mrs. W. S. Hammond
Mr. Gordon Holloway
Ms. Martha R. Kirk
First BC/Friendship SSC
Mr. Wayne Box
Mrs. Marvin Pace
Croshtwait, Tenney & Noble Law Office
Judge & Mrs. Gray Evans
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Dannenberg
Louis Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Harry K. Woods
Dr. J. W. Patterson
Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Stewart
Mrs. Jewel Turner Payne
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.
Mrs. H. L. Thompson
Ms. Peace
Ms. Ella H. Craft
Bobbie Jean Peacock
Eastwood Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
Mrs. J. W. Pease, Sr.
Mrs. J. E. Bobo
Mrs. Mary Lee Petty
Lauderdale County Baptist Assoc.
Dr. Albert Maury Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Garvin Knight & Family
Jimmy & Sarah Phillips
Eloise Crossley SSC/FBC
Columbus
Mrs. Sarah Phillips
Perry & Joe Hendrix Families
Mrs. W. W. Phillips
Bill & Deena Barbee
Mr. Walter Barbee
Mrs. Laverne Pickering
Mrs. Edwin B. King
Adam Pierce
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Pierce Jr.
Mr. Herman Pipkins
First Baptist Church, McLain
Sadye Poindexter
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland Jr.
Mr. Edsel (Tootie) Polk
Mr. Doug Courtney
Mrs. Cindy Williams
Travis Polk
Mrs. Frances Ranson
Mrs. Vester Pope
Mrs. Mildred H. Stamps
Gladys Powell
Ms. Mable Grantham & Family
Paul Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Fulmer
Teddy Power
Mrs. Reva Lee Bland
Mr. Cap Purvis
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Taylor & Boys
Dr. Bob Ramsay
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Davenport
Allen Ray
David & Vicki Lavender
Frances Lavender
Jim & Maxine Lavender
Mrs. Lillian Renshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Wadsworth
Mr. H. B. Richardson
Bessie May Wells & Jim Ella Aden
First BC/Friendship SSC
Mr. & Mrs. O. D. Judge Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter
Mrs. Lois Richey
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark
Sennet Riels
Mr. & Mrs. Orby Wright
Mike Rigdon
Billy & Barbara Harry
Carol Lee Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Martin
Norwood Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Steele
Mr. Everett Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Stubbs
George W. Ross, Jr.
Rachel Sherman & Dene Miller
Pat Bain
J. D. Ross
Anna W. Rounsaville & Family
Mrs. C. J. Rushing
Dr. & Mrs. Norman O'Neal
Joe Russell
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons
Jim Rutherford
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark & Family
Frank & Darthy Dulaney
Dr. Thomas Saffley
Dr. & Mrs. Reggie H. Broom
Mrs. Charles H. Hooker Sr.
F. P. Sanders
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Hattie Sassone
Lidell & Deanie Howell
Gordon Scott
Morrison Heights BC/Fidelis SSC
Mr. Bill Sellers
Carrie & Gus Evans
Nancy Sellers
Morgan Chapel Baptist Church
Mr. Frank Semaru
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Garrett
Bryant Shanks
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay
Clarence Simmons
Mrs. Virginia B. Carpenter
Dr. & Mrs. Irby C. Ellis
Mrs. Gladys Frederick
Sue Sims
Mr. Lonnie Sims
Mr. David Sinclair
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. VanNorman
Mr. Ed Skeen
Mrs. Ruby C. Windham
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Taylor & Boys
Mrs. Ludie Skelton
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Cleveland
Mr. & Mrs. Harold B. Blalock
Mr. & Mrs. Joe H. Cleveland
Charlie Smith
Concord Baptist Church
Ed Smith
Ms. Rachel Hooper
Gressett Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley S. Denison
Mr. James Edwin Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Thames
Katherine C. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Flynt
Mr. Jim H. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Box & Family
Leslie & Lara
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter
Mrs. Lila Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams
Margaret Williams

Norman Smith
Mrs. Mary Rose Jennings
William Smith
Mrs. John D. McCreary & Family
Delilah Sneed
Mr. & Mrs. Joel L. Hale
Sandra Snow
Taylor Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. James Henry Brummett
Clara Spence
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Jaggars
Mrs. Ella Spiars
Mr. & Mrs. Otho Hilderbrand Jr.
Mr. John A. Springer
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Gann
Mr. Jerome Steen
Mrs. Mary B. Whitley
Mrs. Eunice Stephenson
Mr. & Mrs. Skeet Sanders
W. L. (Bill) Steward
Mr. & Mrs. Joel L. Hale
Mr. Percy Stoker
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Box & Family
Alton "Matthew" Stokes
Mrs. Genola Davis Barlow
Mr. Orvis Strahan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Green
Mrs. Bessie Tadlock
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Stanford
Mrs. Viva Frances Brooks Tadlo
Mr. & Mrs. George Gatewood
Mr. Ray Taylor, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Dear
Mrs. F. L. James
Ms. Jewel Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Taylor & Boys
David Thames
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
Mrs. Eva Thomas
Bill & Paula Davidson
Elliott Thoms
Mrs. Inez E. Koen
Annie Mae Thrash
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Lively
Mrs. Threet
Mrs. Mary Y. Womack
Mr. Carl Tolar
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
B. J. Tonnar
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn E. Crowe
James & Annie Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Nokes
Mattie Turner
Mrs. Ruby C. Windham
Mrs. Charlotte Turner
Mr. Fred D. Evans Jr.
Joe H. Tuten III
Dr. and Mrs. William B. Thompson
Mrs. Burnice Upton
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Bankston
Mr. Charlie Fred Utz
Misses Fern & Dixie Pattie
Mr. Stephen E. Valentine
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Mrs. Grace W. Miller
Mrs. Myrtle Vernon
The John Wayne VanHorn Family
First BC/Friendship SSC
Mr. & Mrs. Perry B. Aden
Perry Aden
Jim Ella
Bessie May Wells
Louis Versen
Mr. & Mrs. Harry K. Woods
Mrs. Bess Vinson
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Graves Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Don F. Sherwood
David Guy Walker
Guy & Tommy Walker

Rev. Joe Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn E. Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Junkin & Richard
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland Jr.
Mrs. Myrtle Waller
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Cotton
Mrs. Rosa M. Miller
Mr. C. C. Warf
Mr. Fred D. Evans Jr.
James Alton Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Oberschmidt
Frances Webb
Mrs. H. L. Suber
David Westmoreland, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Rex Patterson
Mrs. Tanya Hart Wheeler
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Taylor & Boys
Harold Wheelless
Mrs. Sam B. Bounds
Mrs. C. M. Cade
Mrs. Hazel Flora
James Dewitt White
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse E. Brock
Smiley B. Whittington
Mrs. Ruth B. Walsh
Mrs. Peggy Wilks

Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Scott
Vernon
Mrs. T. Palmer Wilks
Dr. & Mrs. James E. Little
Mr. Cecil Williams, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Culpepper
Joe B. Williams
E. Rogers & Nancy Pleasants
Katie Kelley Williams
Mr. W. A. Dunaway
Joe Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.
Mrs. Joe Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland Jr.
Charles G. Winstead
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage
Jennie Woods
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Verdie & Mason York
Winfred & Sue Cook
Percy Young
Pat Bain
Lucille Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Bell
Rev. & Mrs. Dalton Haggan
Mr. & Mrs. Billy C. McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Otto K. Bell



Byron Howell of Beulah Baptist Church, Decatur presents Centennial challenge check to Executive Assistant, JoAnn Ginn. Beulah, like several Mississippi churches, though given the full 12 months to complete their pledge, have ahead, met their 1997 challenge to support The Baptist Children's Village for one day. At the half-way mark of 1997 The BCV has about 50% of its goal of 365 churches making commitments.



(Board left to right seated) Cooper Walton, 37 years; Kelly Pyron, 31 years; (standing) Charlie Miller, 37 years; W.F. "Pete" Evans, 35 years.



BCV young person completes a "Trust Fall", one of the many elements on The Ropes Course. Chip Price, Chaplain/Director of Activities facilitates groups of young people on Ropes Course elements to help build relationships, teamwork, trust and self-esteem. As young people conquer personal challenges they build personal strengths.



(Staff left to right) Madge King, 30 years; Frances Boyanton, 20 years; Henry Glaze, 23 years; Kay West, 21 years; Jimmy Patt, 21 years; Peggy Taylor, 30 years; Claire Nowlin, 25 years; Paul Nunnery, 45 years; JoAnn Ginn, 28 years.

Univ. of Mobile controversy heating up

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)—The University of Mobile cannot comply with requests made by the executive committee of the Alabama Baptist state board of missions.

That was the blunt response of the Baptist-affiliated university's interim president, Walter Hovell, after the board's executive committee requested June 3 written certification by July 15 that the university is in compliance with the 1994 agreement with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

The University of Mobile agreed in 1994 that it would only use funds specifically designated for its Nicaraguan campus and funds generated on the Nicaraguan campus to support its Latin American Branch Campus.

Also, the university agreed to return to the Mobile campus about \$2.2 million, which had been used to establish the Nicaraguan campus.

On May 13, trustees of the university released information saying the school had not lived by the agreement and the indebtedness of the Nicaraguan campus to the Mobile campus had grown to \$3.3 million.

That discovery played a part in the decision of longtime President Michael Magnoli and the university "to go separate ways."

Speaking to the Alabama board's executive committee June 3 in Montgomery, Hovell promised the university would have a balanced budget for the 1997-98 school year.

"With a balanced budget, I can tell you there will be no more money in Nicaragua at the end of the next fiscal year than we have now," he declared.

He explained the university will have to send funds to Nicaragua until students return in September for the fall semester.

Hovell also told committee members it would be "hypocritical" of him to promise a plan to recover the \$3.3 million by July 15.

He said the school's director of finance, Steve Lee, was in Nicaragua to employ an international auditing firm to do a thorough accounting of the Nicaraguan campus' four years of existence.

Hovell told board members the university is in the midst of "belt tightening." He said many of the cutbacks will be made "in the eyes of people."

He explained about 45 percent of the university's \$24 million budget is personnel-related. "You can't reduce the budget without reductions in personnel."

"Where I need your help," Hovell continued, "is to give me the freedom to do what has to be done."

He explained a "lot of outside pressure" is trying to "keep him from doing what has to be done."

Hovell said on June 2 he had

been told some people were "off-limits" for cutbacks. He said when that is enforced, he will resign.

The interim president did not explain his comments further but added he regretted the university is becoming bogged down in a "moderate-conservative (theological) division."

Hovell's comments came after the executive committee unanimously adopted the resolution requesting the University of Mobile certify in writing by July 15 that it is abiding by the 1994 agreement with the state convention and has a plan to recover the \$3.3 million from Nicaragua.

The resolution also expressed the executive committee's "serious concern" when an entity of the convention "violates agreements" made with the convention.

State board of missions chairman Tom Whatley, pastor of Woodward Avenue Church, Muscle Shoals, told committee members the resolution was not a "threat" to the university.

"It is a statement to the churches of the Alabama Baptist State Convention that their Cooperative Program gifts are a sacred trust to the trustees of the convention," Whatley said.

Whatley said state board of missions members are the trustees of the convention responsible for allocating and accounting for Cooperative Program receipts.

"If the people in our churches lose faith and heart in the Cooperative Program, our convention and all its entities are doomed," he added.

Whatley warned that if the university chooses not to recover the \$3.3 million from Nicaragua, the state board of missions must consider "any and all opportunities for the money to be recovered within the framework of the (convention) bylaws."

At the beginning of the executive committee meeting, Troy Morrison, executive-secretary for the ABSC, read a prepared statement in which he advised committee members "to let the University of Mobile handle their own indebtedness and other matters."

He warned "any involvement (on the part of the executive committee) could result in bankruptcy for the Alabama Baptist State Convention."

Morrison said he raised questions about the Nicaraguan campus four and a half years ago.

"If they (the questions) had been addressed, (it) could have prevented this crisis," he declared.

Referencing a June 1 story in the "Mobile Press-Register" about the Nicaraguan campus, Morrison said the total amount of indebtedness of the university would not be known for months or years.

Morrison pointed to allega-

tions in the "Press-Register" that the school had swapped student grants and scholarships to the Nicaraguan government in return for favors, including acquisition of buildings and land.

"If this is true, this could spell big-time problems if these scholarships involve U.S. monies for grants or loans," he said.

"I am deeply concerned that we do all we can do at this point to avoid becoming involved as the Alabama Baptist State Convention in an international scandal," he said.

Morrison told executive committee members he had been interviewed by a federal agent in December 1995 about the University of Mobile and its work in Nicaragua.

At that time, he learned five other U.S. government agencies were investigating the school. "I have been advised in recent days that the investigations continue," he said.

"I am ashamed and embarrassed that this has happened to an entity of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. It could have been prevented, but it wasn't," Morrison said.

Explaining entities of the convention have boards to protect them, Morrison added, "If they fail, it is still your responsibility to protect the mission and ministry of the Alabama Baptist State Convention."

University of Mobile trustee chairman Robert Maxwell, an attorney from Atmore, acknowledged he embraced many of the "facts" presented by Morrison.

However, he cautioned that many of the concerns may prove to be unsubstantiated.

Maxwell said trustees are now "enlightened" and can therefore do a better job of overseeing the university than they have up until now.

He pledged all the "wrongs" perceived by the trustees will be "righted."

Cowboy Bibles a hit in Miss.

"The Baptist Record" has received numerous calls requesting information on how to receive a copy of the cowboy Bible mentioned in the article entitled, "Movie subject's life continues as witness," on page 12 of the June 5 issue. Interested persons should write to Clyde and Elsie Frost at 1116 E. Cottonwood Lane in Lane, OK 74555. The Bibles are being distributed free of charge under limited funding. A donation of \$3.50 per Bible is suggested for those people able to donate.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1997

MBZ CIP TBBZ KULKNV
NP IKFP LYCI NBE;
GCE DP NP IKFP RBC
KULKNV.

QBIR CLPUFP: PYJIC

Clue: G equals B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six Nine.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

What do I do (besides pray) if I can't afford counseling, and how can I convince my husband to go? I feel at times like leaving him; isn't that terrible?

Ask your pastor for a referral or check your local area for reasonably-priced resources.

Many cities have schools that offer counseling at a reduced rate with student therapists (many of them older than a typical "student") who are closely supervised by trained faculty.

There is also a network of mental health centers, but the wait is sometimes quite long because of demand. Some ministers are also willing to counsel. At the least, share your concerns with your best friend over coffee.

The point is that you can't keep your problems bottled up inside you.

Convincing your husband is a more difficult matter. You can urge. You can suggest. You can voice your hurt and frustration. You might even get his attention by telling him, "Sometimes I feel like leaving you." Explain to him that such a statement is not a threat as much as it is a cry from your heart. Begin by getting help for yourself. It is possible that your husband may see how therapy benefits you and want to come along.

Your feelings about leaving him reflect your hurt and frustration. Unfortunately, this is the cry of many wives today.

Recently you advised a wife not to "go into details" on her husband's sin of adultery while seeking to enlist Christian men to help her with her husband. It seems this puts even more burden on her and allows him to continue to lead his double life.

Her husband certainly should not be allowed to continue freely indulging in his double life, but the details are not what is important — the disobedience to God's command is what is really important.

God has already issued judgement on adulterers, and he will bring about repentance in his time. A marriage caught in the throes of adultery needs nurturing and prayer.

Christian men willing to help this wife don't need details; they need prayer to help them confront this husband in a Christian way and help lead him back to a Christian lifestyle.

Their job — and our job — is to be vessels of grace and love with respect to such in the midst of broken marriages.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.